



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENWOOD WOMAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING MAIL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Greenwood, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for stealing mail from residents in rural Cass County, Mo., in order to produce counterfeit checks using stolen identity information.

Tina M. Sandy, 37, of Greenwood, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to two years and four months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Sandy** to pay \$21,100 in restitution, and to forfeit to the government all property used to commit the offense, including an HP Pavilion laptop computer, a scanner/printer, a Palm Pilot and a Minolta 35 mm camera.

On April 7, 2005, **Sandy** pleaded guilty to stealing mail. **Sandy** admitted that on Oct. 10, 2004, she took unopened mail from the roadside mailboxes along rural roads near her home, hoping to find checks, bank statements, and credit cards. For example, Graves said, **Sandy** stole a bank statement from one resident and used the account information to make a counterfeit check in the amount of \$1,800, which she attempted to pass at a Kansas City bank.

Using counterfeit checks and other counterfeit instruments, **Sandy** engaged in fraudulent transactions in excess of \$135,000. However, Graves said, the banks intercepted many of the transactions, and the actual loss for restitution purposes is \$21,100.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow